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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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09/913,987

08/20/2001

Harald Bock

8341

29177

7590

03/08/2006

BELL, BOYD & LLOYD, LLC

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EXAMINER

BELLO, AGUSTIN

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2633

DATE MAILED: 03/08/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/913,987

Applicant(s)

BOCK ET AL

Examiner

Agustin Bello

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 February 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 4-7 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 4-7 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 2/13/06 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 4 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Denkin (U.S. Patent No 6,266,168).

Regarding claim 4, Thompson teaches a network node (Figure 1) having optical add modules (reference numerals 10-1 and 10-2 in Figure 1) and drop modules (reference numeral 20-1 and 20-2 in Figure 1) for a bidirectional ring network (Figure 1) that has a working connection and a protection connection to other network nodes, comprising: a first drop module (reference numeral 20-1 in Figure 1) and a first add module (reference numeral 10-1 in Figure 1) positioned on a protection module (reference numerals 125 in Figure 1) for bidirectional protection connection arranged on a first board (reference numeral 125 in Figure 1); and a

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second drop module (reference 20-2 in Figure 1) and a second add module (reference numeral 10-2 in Figure 1) positioned on a working module (reference numeral 150 in Figure 2) arranged on a second board (reference numeral 150 in Figure 2) for bidirectional working connection, wherein the second drop module (reference numeral 20-2 in Figure 1) and the first add module (reference numeral 10-1 in Figure 1) are positioned in series (e.g. via reference numeral 25, 26 in Figure 1) with respect to a second fiber ring (reference numerals 30, 31 in Figure 1) and wherein the first drop module (reference numeral 20-1 in Figure 1) and the second add module (reference numeral 10-2 in Figure 1) are positioned in series (e.g. via reference numeral 30, 31 in Figure 1) with respect to a first fiber ring (reference numeral 25, 26 in Figure 1).

Regarding claim 5, Denkin teaches the network node as claimed in Claim 4, wherein the first drop module (reference numeral 20-1 in Figure 1) and the first add module (reference numeral 10-1 in Figure 1) of the protection module and the second drop module (reference numeral 20-2 in Figure 1) and the second add module (reference numeral 10-2 in Figure 1) of the working module each have a line input and a line output such that the first drop module and the first add module and the second drop module and second add module are each separately insertable in the first or second fiber ring (as seen in Figure 1).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

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5. Claims 6 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Liu (U.S. Patent No. 5,953,141).

Regarding claim 6, Liu teaches a network node (Figure 11) having optical add modules (reference numeral 1113 and 1114 in Figure 11) and drop modules (reference numeral 1111 and 1112 in Figure 11) for a unidirectional ring network (as noted in the abstract) which has a working connection (reference numeral O2 in Figure 11) and a protection connection (reference numeral O1 in Figure 11) to other network nodes, comprising: a first drop module (reference numeral 1112 in Figure 11) and a first add module (reference numeral 1114 in Figure 11) positioned on a protection module (reference numerals 1101, 1102, 1112, 1105, 1103, 1114, and 1104 in Figure 11) for protection connection; and a second drop module (reference numeral 1111 in Figure 11) and a second add module (reference numeral 1113 in Figure 11) positioned on a working module (reference numerals 1101, 1102, 1111, 1105, 1103, 1113, and 1104 in Figure 11) for working connection, wherein the first drop module (reference numeral 1112 in Figure 11) and the first add module (reference numeral 1114 in Figure 11) are inserted in series in a second fiber ring (e.g. to O₁) and the second drop module (reference numeral 1111 in Figure 11) and the second add module (reference numeral 1113 in Figure 11) are inserted in series in a first fiber ring (e.g. I₁ to O₂) and wherein the add and drop function are arranged on two separate boards (see Figure 11). Liu differs from the claimed invention in that Liu fails to specifically teach arranging the first drop and first add on a first board or a second drop and a second add arranged on a second board. However, Liu, in a different embodiment teaches including an add and drop circuit on a single board (Figure 5). As such, one skilled in the art would have been motivated to modify the network node of Figure 11 to include the single board configuration

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taught in Figure 5 in order to reduce the overall size, cost and complexity of the node.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to employ the single board add/drop module as shown in Figure 5 in the node of Figure 11.

Regarding claim 7, Liu teaches the network node as claimed in Claim 6, wherein the first drop module and the first add module of the protection module (reference numerals 1112, 1114 in Figure 11) and the second drop module and the second add module of the working module (reference numeral 1111, 1113 in Figure 11) each have a line input (reference numeral I_1, I_2 in Figure 11) and a line output (reference numeral O_1, O_2 in Figure 0) such that the first drop module and the first add module and the second drop module and the second add module are each separately insertable in the first fiber ring or the second fiber ring (as seen in Figure 11).

Response to Arguments

6. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 4-7 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Agustin Bello whose telephone number is (571) 272-3026. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30-6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jason Chan can be reached on (571)272-3022. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

AB


AGUSTIN BELLO
PRIMARY EXAMINER